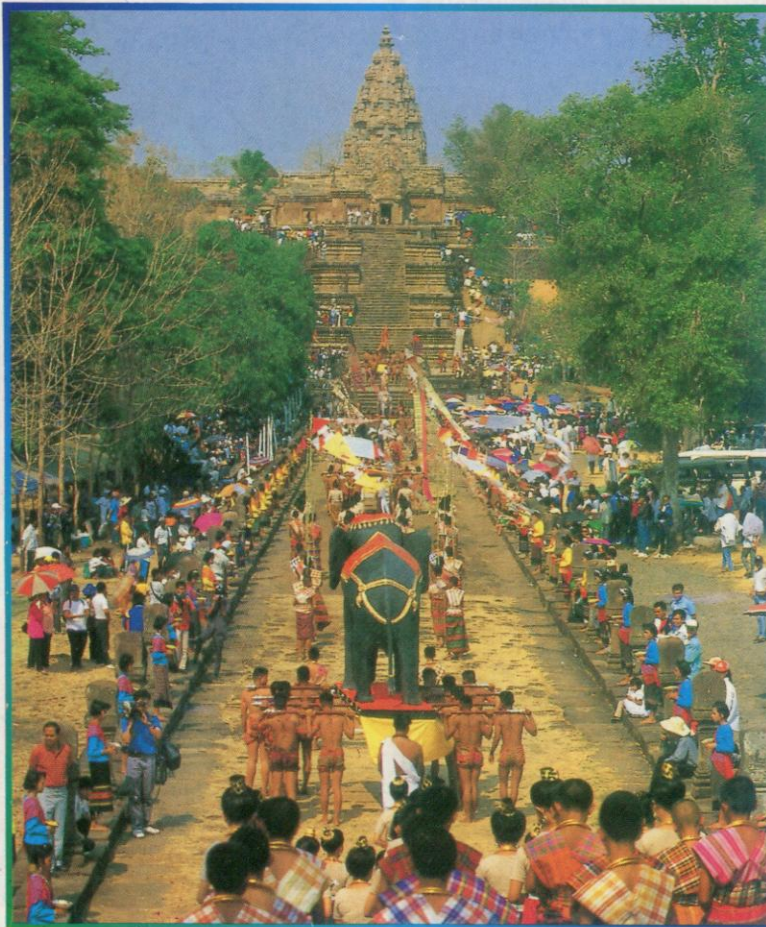




BURI RAM



Spectacular re-created royal procession,

Phanom Rung Fair, Buri Ram

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Northeastern Office: Region I

BURI RAM

History

Buri Ram Province is situated in the lower part of northeastern Thailand, or South Isan. It has an area of about 10,321.885 square km. Buri Ram is a pleasant place to live. In the past it was covered with shady trees and the land was fertile. Even the name "Buri Ram" means the city of happiness or the city of joy. Its population of 1.6 million people rank sixth among all provinces. The average per capita income is 10,692 baht. Buri Ram has 9 members of parliament.

Boundary

- North - Khon Kaen and Maha Sarakham.
- East - Surin.
- South - Prachin Buri and the phanom Malai Mountain Range which divides Thailand and Cambodia. Buri Ram's frontier Amphoe (districts) are Amphoe Ban Kruat and Amphoe Lahan Sai, 44 km. from Cambodia.
- West - Nakhon Ratchasima. Approximately 1.75 million Rai of the area is forest land. The main occupation here is rice farming.

Administration

Buri Ram Province is divided into 14 Amphoe and 6 King Amphoe (sub-districts) : Amphoe Muang, Amphoe Nang Rong, Amphoe Lam Plai Mat, Amphoe Prakhon Chai, Amphoe Phutthaisong, Amphoe Satuk, Amphoe Krasang, Amphoe Ban Kruat, Amphoe Khu Muang, Amphoe Lahan Sai, Amphoe Nong Ki, Amphoe Pakham, Amphoe Na Pho, and Amphoe Nong Hong.

The King Amphoe are King Amphoe Huai Rat, King Amphoe Non Suwan, King Amphoe Phlapphla Chai, King Amphoe Chamni, King Amphoe Ban Mai Chaiyaphot, and King Amphoe Non Din Daeng.

There are 184 Tambon (minor sub-districts), 2,226 villages, 270,336 households, 2 municipalities, and 18 public health areas.

Tourist Destinations and Places of Interest

Amphoe Muang



Huai Talat Reservoir (อ่างเก็บน้ำห้วยตลาด) is about 10 km. along the Prakhon Chai Road in Tambon Samet. The reservoir holds water the year round. There is the Sala Anek Pracha Rom pavilion for visitors to rest. The most important thing about the reservoir is that over 200 species of birds inhabit it such as waterfowls, spring chicken and others. Nearby is the largest bird cage in the area with over 200,000 birds belonging to Mr. Sawat Gajasen. The compound is shady and there is food for sale in the evening. This is a perfect place for people seeking quiet relaxation. Visitors can also be taken to view the many birds there.

Huai Chorakhe Mak Reservoir (อ่างเก็บน้ำห้วยจระเข้มาก) is in Tambon Ban Bua, 13 km. from the city. The freshwater reservoir has large shady trees along its banks. At the reservoir is the office of the Royal Irrigation Department and the Waterworks Authority. It is a popular tourist spot for city people on weekends.

Kradong Reservoir (อ่างเก็บน้ำกระโดง) is in front of Kradong Mountain. A road on the left of Khao Kradong takes visitors to Bunyanusat Scouts Camp and a zoo. The place is ideal for relaxation and picnics. The reservoir offers a magnificent view of the Phra Suphatbophit Buddha image atop Khao Kradong.

Khao Kradong Park (วนอุทยานเขากระโดง)



is on Khao Kradong which is an extinct volcano. The mouth of the volcano is now a small pool which has water throughout the year. About 6 km. from the city on the Buri Ram-Prakhon Chai Road, the park has several local flora worth studying. The park can be reached via 2 ways which are by car on a concrete road lined with Buddha images in various postures and by a stairway which climbs to a level of 265 metres above sea level. On the mountaintop sits Phra Suphatbophit, a large image sacred to the Buri Ram people. Adjacent to it is an ancient pagoda which houses a replica of Lord Buddha's footprint.



The park is under the supervision of the Wildlife Conservation Office of the Royal Forestry Department. Buri Ram Provincial Authorities have developed it into a major tourist spot by conserving nature and the environment in pristine condition. Numerous tourists come here on weekends.

Buri Ram Local Arts and Crafts Center (ศูนย์ศิลปหัตถกรรมพื้นบ้านบุรีรัมย์) is in front of the Surin Provincial Army Headquarters on the Buri Ram intersection from the Buri Ram-Prakhon Chai Road in Tambon Samet, tel. 613299, 612823. There are many sandstone replicas of South Isan arts such as the Narai lintel, god sculptures, Buddha images, etc.

Buri Ram Cultural Center (ศูนย์วัฒนธรรมจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์) is in the area of Ratchaphat Buri Ram Institute. It is the center for the collection and display of artifacts and works of historical value, as well as a research source for local history, archaeology and arts. The center was opened on April 16, 1993 and is open daily for the public to visit during government office hours.

Amphoe Nang Rong



Phanom Rung Sanctuary (ปราสาทหินพนมรุ้ง) was a very important place of worship in the Lop Buri period. About 1,000 years old, it is situated atop a mountain 1,320 feet above sea level. The sanctuary is in Tambon Ta Pek. To get to the sanctuary, go along Highway No.24 and turn right at Ban Tako and continue on for 12 km. (There are motor-cycle taxi from ban Tako to Prasat phanom Rung, the fare is about B 170 for return) on an asphalt road which can be driven on in any weather. The sanctuary was a religious structure of the Brahman religion in the Sawai Nikai sect. A sandstone stairway lined with columns leads up to the entrance. The bannisters are in the shape of a five-headed Naga. A crooked terrace encircles the sanctuary and there is a doorway at each side. The central pagoda is made of sandstone and has elaborate carvings. Smaller laterite structures sit next to the pagoda, all in symmetry with one another. It almost seems like a god had a divine hand in creating the sanctuary.

Muang Tam Sanctuary (ปราสาทเมืองต่ำ) was built during the 9th to 10th Century. It is at Ban Khok Muang which lies at the foot of a mountain 8 km. away from Phanom Rung. The road to the sanctuary is entirely paved with asphalt. Muang Tam Sanctuary is a brick structure with 5 pagodas surrounded by laterite ponds. At the corners of each pond is a sandstone five-headed



Naga that stretches around the four directions of the pond. The sandstone lintel and doorway are beautifully carved. The compound is encircled by a crooked terrace and a laterite wall.

Khok Muang Handicrafts Village (หมู่บ้านหัตถกรรมโคกเมือง) won the 1986 award for the best village. The main occupation here is reed mat weaving, silk weaving and making silk products that are of fine quality and selling them to tourists.

Nong Kong Sanctuary (ปราสาทหนองคง) or kuti Rusi Sanctuary is in Tambon Tapek near the foot of Khao Phanom Rung on the way to Muang Tam Sanctuary. Only the base of the main building remains. However, there is the magnificent square, laterite pagoda which is 4 m. wide with a fake doorway in every direction. A Buddha image in the meditation posture is in the doorframe.

The laterite wall is 25.7 m. wide and 31.7 m. long. Only parts of it remain.



Wat Khao Angkhan (วัดเขาอังคาร) is on Khao Angkhan, another extinct volcano in Buri

Ram. The temple can be reached by taking the Ta Pek-Lahan Sai Road for 5 km. and turning left for 10 more km. Artifacts abound here, including ancient sandstone temple boundary markers dating back to the Dvaravati period. Nowadays it is the site of Wat Khao Angkhan, one of Buri Ram's largest monasteries. The buildings within were designed to reflect architecture in various eras. All are breathtakingly beautiful. Inside the main chapel are mural paintings recounting the past lives of Lord Buddha in English.

Pa Kham or Ta Kham Sanctuary (ปราสาทหินปะคำ หรือตาคำ) is in Tambon Chum saeng. The main pagoda is built of laterite and is 19 × 22 metres. A moat surrounds the sanctuary wall.

Thung Laem Reservoir (อ่างเก็บน้ำทุ่งแหลม) is beside Highway No.24, 4 km. from Amphoe Nang Rong at the Ban Hak intersection. This is a small reservoir which has been developed into a tourist resting spot before tourists visit Phanom Rung Sanctuary. A beautifully decorated pavilion offers visitors shelter. In the dry season, numerous waterfowls live here and birdwatchers can get a close look at them. The provincial authorities have a plan to develop the area into the Buri Ram Folk Arts Center to sell and promote local handicrafts to tourists.

Amphoe Ban Kruat

Ancient Quarry (แหล่งหินตัด) is the site where the ancient khmer people used to obtain rocks to build sanctuaries in the lower Northeast. It is near Khao Kloi and Khao Krachiao, adjacent to the Thai-Cambodian border, 7 km. from Amphoe Ban Kruat on the Ban Kruat-Lahan Sai Road, and 3 km. from the main road. An asphalt road



leads to the quarry, making travel most convenient. It is believed that rocks from this quarry were used to build Phanom Rung and other sanctuaries in Buri Ram. There are rock hills on both sides. A stream flows through this lovely area. Provincial authorities have asked the Fine Arts Department to survey the area for conservation purposes.

Provincial authorities plan to construct a museum showing the mining process of the khmers as well as a parking lot and other facilities to receive tourists and the public.

Amphoe Ban Kruat Cultural Center (ศูนย์วัฒนธรรมอำเภอบ้านกรวด) is at Ban Kruat Witthayakhan School. It was formerly a storage of artifacts found in the Ban Kruat area, comprising mainly of earthenware over 1,000 years old. Many kilns were discovered here, establishing that this was a major producing site of earthenware. The Fine Arts Department has opened 2 ancient kilns to the public; Nai Chian Kiln and Sawai Kiln, 5 and 10 km. from Amphoe Ban Kruat respectively.

These ancient earthenware come in many useful forms such as jars, bowls, trays, etc. Some are decorated with designs. The main colors are brown, white and white/green. It is believed that there were made during 857-1357. A good asphalt road leads to the site.

Huai Mekha Dam (เขื่อนห้วยเมฆา) is 100 km. from Amphoe Muang. The dam was funded by the Japanese government to help irrigation in the lower Northeast. The dam is situated in a beautiful valley and visitors can marvel at the opening and closing of floodgates. Large sandstones found here are believed to have been used sanctuaries in the area.

The Huai Mekha Forest and eucalyptus forest are nearby.

King Amphoe Non Din Daeng

Rao Su Monument-Lam Nang Rong Dam-Khlong Manao-Royal Factory (อนุสาวรีย์เราสู้-เขื่อนลำนางรอง-คลองมะนาว-โรงงานหลวง) are 107 km. from Amphoe Muang. The monument is beside the Lahan Sai-Ta Phraya Road. It was completed in 1979 to commemorate the bravery of citizens, policemen and soldiers who died fighting insurgents who tried to stop the construction of this important strategic route. The name "Rao Su" was given by His Majesty the King.

About 200 metres from the monument lies the Development for Security Project Area of H.M. the King which includes the large reservoir Lam Nang Rong and the Khlong Manao Reservoir, which are used for agriculture and relaxation. Visitors can rest aboard rafts on the reservoirs, swim, take boat trips to watch flocks of waterfowls, and see the operations of a processed food factory, as well as buy products from there such as baby corn, vegetables and canned tomato juice.

Prasat Nong Hong (ปราสาทหนองหงส์) is to the south of Lam Nang Rong Dam on the Thai-Cambodian border. A wall encloses the laterite base.



Phra Phuttharup Yai (พระพุทธรูปใหญ่) or Phra Phuttharup Patima Santayaphirom Satuk Udom Ratsadon Nimit Manin is a huge standing Buddha image on the bank of the Mun River, opposite Amphoe Satuk Office. It is highly revered by the people of Satuk and nearby provinces. Every year there is the Buri Ram Boat Race on the river in front of the image. Paddlers, tourists and spectators usually stop by to pay homage to the image.



Nong Ko Noi Handicrafts Village (หมู่บ้านหัตถกรรมหนองเกาะน้อย) is about 17 km. from Amphoe Satuk. A gravel road leads to the village. The village is a popular stop for people going to see the Buri Ram Boat Races in November or those going to Amphoe Satuk. The Department of Industrial Promotion has trained villagers here to make products from reed such as ladies handbags, briefcases and folders.

Amphoe Phutthaisong

Prang Ku Suan Taeng (ปราสาทกุสุวันเตง) is another ancient khmer site. It is situated in Ban Don Wai, Tambon Nong Waeng alongside Highway No.202 (Phutthaisong-Prathai), 74 km. from Amphoe Muang (12 km. from Amphoe Phutthaisong). The site is 3 brick pagodas lined on a single base. The site awaits coming renovation. Prang Ku Suan Taeng used to have many beautiful lintels, one of which was stolen and sold abroad. It was later retrieved and is now on display in the National Museum. Another is on display in Phimai National Museum.



Phra Chao Yai Wat Hong (พระเจ้าใหญ่วัดหงษ์) is a large and old Buddha image in the meditation posture, 1.6 metre wide and 2 metres high. This is a laterite image that features many local designs. Each February, a grand celebration is held to pay homage to the image and is attended by people from nearby provinces.

Though its Thai name means "large," it is believed that the reason it is named like this is not because of its size but because of its sacred status to the Buri Ram people. It is said that people who make vows with the image and then break them usually suffer negative consequences. Several smaller images have been found under the image's base.

The temple can be reached by taking the road to Phayak Phisai for 1 km. and 2 more km: on a branch road.

Amphoe Pakham

Pet Thong Cave (ถ้ำเป็ดทอง) is a cave in the shape of 2 steamboats side by side. It is 2 km. to the southwest of Hin Khon Village on the west bank of Huai Lam Mat. The cave, which should be called a cliff instead because of its high exterior, has ancient wall writing in 3 places and all are in Sanskrit. The faded writings tell of an order by King Chittrasen of the Chenla Empire (died 540) to build a monument to honor his parents. The rough road to the cave cannot be used during the rainy season.

Prasat Ban Mai Thai Charoen (ปราสาทบ้านใหม่ไทยเจริญ) is in Tambon Pakham, 4 km. to the east of Pakham School. Only the door posts of the sanctuary are left, which was believed to have been built in the Lop Buri period some 1,000 years ago.

Amphoe Nong Ki

Don Arang (ดอนอะราง) is an award-winning village from 1988. The village is beautifully planned, peaceful and has good-quality products for sale such as Matmi silk, silk Sarongs, pillows, and reed mats.

Amphoe Na Pho

Silk Village (หมู่บ้านทอผ้าไหม) has the finest Matmi silk which won many awards from the local Handicrafts Center. Modern techniques and designs are used in its production.

Customs and Traditions

Apart from religious holidays, Songkran Day and the New Year, the people of Buri Ram has many interesting traditions such as the Fifth Month Festival in which there is merit-making and folk plays such as Saba and tug-of-war. In some areas, like Phutthaisong, there are processions and candle contests during the Buddhist Lent. The Loi Krathong Festival is also widely celebrated here.

Buri Ram Long Boat Races (ประเพณีแข่งเรือยาวจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์) is an annual event that is held in the first weekend of November. The competition is held on the Mun River when the water level is highest. Teams from nearby and afar come to race in front of Amphoe Satuk District Office to vie for a trophy awarded by His Majesty the King and H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Originally a local event to enhance friendship and pay homage to Chao Pho Wang Krut (a

whirlpool in the Mun River), the event became a yearly event in 1986. Over 50 boats regularly compete and join in fancy boat processions.



A highlight of the races is the elephant swimming contest. Something to watch is also the elephants parading through the city to the accompaniment of lively music.

Phanom Rung Festival (ประเพณีขึ้นเขาพนมรุ้ง) is held every April to pay homage to the replica of Lord Buddha's footprint in the sanctuary. A number of activities are organized to preserve the ancient culture of the province such as the Procession of the Ancient khmers, a light-and-sound show recounting Phanom Rung's past and a Hope By Dinner.

Buri Ram Kite Festival (มหกรรมว่าวอีสานบุรีรัมย์) is held during the harvest season when the northeast monsoon winds blow across the region. Villagers come out to fly kites at this time and the festival is now an annual event.

Buri Ram had its first kite festival in 1986. Villagers from around the area are invited to come and fly kites for prizes. A kite must be over 2.5 metres wide to be eligible. Kites are judged by their beauty, sound-making and flying styles. A grand kite procession is well worth seeing,



so too are the nighttime performances.

The festival's venue is the Provincial Stadium, King Amphoe Huai Rat, and is held in the second weekend of December.

Phra Chao Yai Wat Hong Fair (เทศกาลนมัสการพระเจ้าใหญ่วัดหงษ์) is held every February to pay homage to this most sacred Buddha image for the Buri Ram people. Celebrations go on for three days and include a variety of entertainment.

Local Products

Famous Buri Ram products are silk, cotton cloths of Phutthaisong, Chom fish of Prakhon Chai, pig's legs in fried coconut of Nang Rong, roast chicken and pork sausage of Lam Plai Mat, sweet cabbage in honey of Krasang, and shrimp of Satuk.

Getting to Buri Ram

Buri Ram is easily accessible via road and train.

Road From Bangkok, take Highway No.1 (Phahonyothin Road) to Highway No.2 (Mittraphap Road) to Nakhon Ratchasima. Then turn right onto Highway No.24 on the Chok Chai-Det Udom Road, and another right to Buri Ram. The total distance is 410 km. A newer route is from Nakhon Ratchasima on Highway No.226 past Amphoe Chakkarat, Huai Thalaeng and Lam Plai Mat. The distance on this route is only 384 km.

The Transport Co. operates a daily Bangkok-Buri Ram bus service. For more information, contact tel. 2710101-5 (regular bus) and 2794484-7 (air-conditioned bus).

Train Express, rapid and ordinary trains are available to Buri Ram from Bangkok to Ubon Ratchathani or Nakhon Ratchasima to Ubon Ratchathani. Air-conditioned diesel coaches on the Surin-Bangkok can be taken daily. The distance is 376 km.

BUS SCHEDULE FROM BURI RAM-NEAR BY PROVINCES BUS LEAVES FROM BURI RAM BUS TERMINAL

Destination	Bus No.	Fare B	Distance km.	Departure Time
Nakhon Ratchasima	273	40.-	155	04.30, 05.15, 06.00, 06.25 06.50, 07.15, 07.30, 07.40 08.05, 08.30, 08.55, 09.20 09.45, 10.10, 10.35, 11.00 11.30, 12.00, 12.30, 13.00 13.30, 14.00, 14.35, 15.10 15.50, 16.40, 18.00
Roi Et	275	38.-	146	05.30, 06.15, 07.05, 08.05 08.45, 09.50, 11.15, 12.25 13.15, 14.25, 15.45, 17.15
Khon Kaen	281	57.-	200	04.45, 05.45, 06.45, 07.25 09.25, 10.20, 11.45, 12.50 13.50, 15.15, 16.15
Surin	281	15.-	111	08.50, 10.50, 12.40, 15.00 16.20

NAKHONCHAI AIR CO.,LTD. Tel. 614559, 614579

Destination	Bus No.	Fare B	Distance km.	Departure Time
Chiang Mai	587	355 (A)	928	(Air) 16.00, 17.00, 19.15 21.45 (Fan) 18.00
Pattaya	588	200 (A)	481	(Air) 10.15, 20.45, 21.45 22.15 (Fan) 19.05, 19.30, 21.15 22.45
Rayong	588	230 (A)	496	(Air) 10.15, 20.45, 21.45 22.15 (Fan) 19.05, 19.30, 21.15 22.45
Ubon	100 (A)	269		01.00 every 30 minutes- 05.00, 07.00, 16.00
	55 (F)			

KITJAKAN RATCHASIMA YAN YONT CO.,LTD. Tel. 612354

Destination	Bus No.	Fare B	Distance km.	Departure Time
Nakhon Ratchasima	62 (A)	155		08.00, 09.00, 10.00, 21.30 22.00, 22.30
Bangkok	168 (A)	411		08.00, 09.00, 10.00, 21.30 22.00, 22.30

SRI MONGKOL KHON-SONG CO.,LTD. Tel. 612085

Destination	Bus No.	Fare B	Distance km.	Departure Time
Nakhon Ratchasima	589	65 (A)	155	09.00, 19.45, 22.00, VIP. 21.00 (Air) (Fan) 11.00, 18.45, 20.30 23.00
Pattaya	589	200 (A)	481	(Air) 09.00, 19.45, 22.00 VIP. 21.00 (Fan) 11.00, 18.45, 20.30 23.00

REMARK : (A) = Air Conditioned
(F) = Fan

Tourist Information

1. Nang Rong Tourist Information Center
8/1 Soi Srikul (Behind Ban Nong Ree School)
Nang Rong District
2. Buri Ram Provincial Office
City Hall. Tel. 611342, 611449, 611170
3. Phanom Rung Tourist Service Center
Tel. 631746
4. Buri Ram Cultural Center
Tel. 611221

Van Hire

1. Fai 31/3 Tanee Rd. Tel. 612551
2. To Ket 179/4-5 Soontornthep Rd.
Tel. 611366
3. Turakit Tour Tel. 613222, 612304
4. Heng Kee Tel. 612318
5. Wong Vikom Tel. 613047

Accommodation**Amphoe Muang (Area Code 044)**

1. Grand Hotel (แกรนด์ไฮเต็ล)
137 Niwas Rd., Tel. 611089, 611179
Rate : B 150-190 (Fan) Room : 90
2. Buri Ram Hotel (บุรีรัมย์ไฮเต็ล)
148 Niwas Rd., Tel. 612504
Rate : B 250 (Fan), B 600 (Air) Rooms : 78
3. Thep Nakhon
139 Moo 3, I-San Rd., Tel. 613400
Rate : B 390-750 (Air) Rooms : 30
4. Thai Hotel
38/1 Romburi Rd., Tel. 611112, 611132
Rate : B 150-190 (Fan),
B 430-720 (Air) Rooms : 96

Amphoe Nang Rong

1. Nang Rong Hotel
243 Pradit Pana Rd., Tel. 631014
Rate : B 100-160 (Fan), B 250 (Air) Rooms : 19
2. Kasem-suk Hotel
Prachasanti Rd., Tel. 631039
Rate : B 100 (Fan), B 200-400 (Air) Rooms : 13
3. Sa-nguan Mit
Pracha Santi, Tel. 631045
Rate : B 70-100 (Fan) Rooms : 19
4. Honey Inn
8/1 Soi Srikul, Behind Ban Nongree School
Rate : B 50-100 (Fan) Rooms : 7

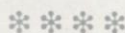
DINING

Amphoe Muang

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Porn Pen | 30/3 Romburi Rd.,
Tel. 611553 (T, C, L) |
| 2. Maitreejit | 169/2-4 Soonthornthep
Rd., Tel. 611538
(T, Bakery) |
| 3. Versailles | Pralat Muang Rd.,
Tel. 611420 (T, C.M) |
| 4. Roong Ruang | Niwas Rd.,
Tel. 611778 (T, C) |
| 5. Thai Coffeeshop | Thai Hotel (T, C) |
| 6. Thep Nakhon Coffeeshop | Thep Nakhon Hotel
(T, C) |
| 7. Buriram Coffeeshop | Buriram Hotel (T, C) |
| 8. Co Co | Samattakarn Rd.,
Tel. 611745 |
| 9. Tu Moo Hao | Buriram-Nang Rong
Rd., Tel. 612877 (T, C) |
| 10. Wang Hansa | Tel. 614394 |
| 11. Chok Likit | Tel. 612665 (L) |

Remarks : T = Thai food
C = Chinese food
L = Local food
M = Music

Prices and details in this booklet may be subjected
to change without notice November 1994





ปรัรรงควัฒนธรรมไทย
พ.ศ. ๒๕๓๗

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